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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Experienced R.I. Educator to Lead Central Falls Schools**

PROVIDENCE -- Dr. William R. Holland, a Rhode Island educator with 43 years of experience in the field, will become the interim superintendent of the Central Falls School District.

James A. DiPrete, the chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education announced the forthcoming appointment at the Board meeting last night.

“We’re at a very important juncture here,” he said to Anna Cano-Morales, chair of the Central Falls Schools Board of Trustees. “We have to have a road map that leads to success. Knowing Dr. Holland, you’re going to get a first-class performance.”

Dr. Holland, a former Commissioner of Higher Education (1999-2002), retired last year from his position as Professor of Educational Leadership at Rhode Island College. Previously, he served as a superintendent of schools in Rhode Island and Massachusetts for 18 years, including 8 years as the superintendent in Narragansett (1978-1986), where he lives.

He is also the former executive director of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals (1990-1999). He holds degrees from URI and the University of Massachusetts and a doctorate in education from Boston University.

Dr. Holland’s appointment will be brought before the Central Falls Board of Trustees for approval at the Board meeting on Tuesday. In anticipation of that meeting, Dr. Holland Ms. Cano-Morales, drafted an agreement on Dr. Holland’s expected work.

The agreement obligates him to work with the Board in developing a strategic plan for the district, work with the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to build capacity in the district, prepare a report to the Regents regarding policy determinations and the future of the Central Falls schools, and offer guidance toward the hiring of a new Superintendent.

Dr. Holland’s interim appointment is expected to run until December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Central Falls School District is unique in Rhode Island in that it is supported almost entirely by state funds and in that its Board of Trustees is appointed by the Regents.

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